and under the Scholarship Scheme for Talented Children from Rural Areas 43,000 scholarships are given every year. As the schemes are fully implemented by the State Governments, the expenditure under them depend upon action taken by the States.

(c) and (d) The non-utilisation of grant is discussed in meetings held with State Education Secretaries from time to time. A Review Committee appointed by the Government has also examined this matter. Revision of the schemes in the Tenth Five Year Plan is under consideration so as to make them more attractive.

**Women welfare scheme in West Bengal**

3199. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Central schemes for women's welfare are in operation in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds or any other assistance sanctioned for these schemes;

(d) whether the schemes are being monitored through N.G.Os and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government are receiving utilisation certificates from the monitoring agencies regularly and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Details are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Yes, Sir.

***Statement***

*Details of central schemes in operation in the State of West Bengal*

(Rs. in lakhs)

| Sl. No. | Name/Details of the scheme | Amount released during 2002-2003 |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | **Women's Economic Programme (Swawlamban)**<br>The objective of the scheme is to provide training and skill to women to facilitate them to obtain employment or self-employment on sustained basis. | 32.81 |
| 2. | **Step**<br>The objective of the scheme is to upgrade skills of poor and asset less women in the traditional occupations, such as, agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry and wasteland development for enhancing their productivity and income generation. | 274.76 |
| 3. | **Short Stay Home**<br>The scheme aims at rehabilitation of women and girls who are deprived of social support due to family problems, mental strains, social ostracism, exploitation or other causes. | 68.11 |
| 4. | **Working Women Hostels**<br>The objective of the scheme is to provide cheap and safe hostel accommodation to employed women, widows, divorcees, separated and working women whose husbands are out of town. Women getting training for employment are also eligible to stay in the hostel. | 1.60 |
| 5. | **Awareness Generation Programme for Rural and Poor Women**<br>This schemes provides a platform for rural and poor women to come together, exchange their experience and ideas and in the process, develop an understanding of reality and | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| | also the way to tackle their problems and fulfil their needs. | 18.00 |
| **6.** | **Mahila Mandal** | |
| | The Mahila Mandals arrange activities for women and children in their respective areas. | 28.49 |
| **7.** | **Family Counselling Centres** | |
| | The Family Counselling Centres provide counselling referal and, if possible, rehabilitative services to women victims of atrocities in the family and society and also to other affected by family and social problems and disputes. | 13.79 |
| **8.** | **Condensed Course of Education for Adult Women** | |
| | The scheme aims at providing education and relevant skills to women so that they become eligible for identifiable remunerative work opportunities to facilitate empowerment of women. | 13.45 |
| **9.** | **Creche for Children of Working and Ailing Mothers** | |
| | The programme of Creches for Children of Working and Ailing Mothers provides day care services to the children (0 to 5 years of age) of mothers from lower income groups families who are working or ailing. | 45.12 |
| **10.** | **Border Area Project** | |
| | The objective is to ensure emotional and cultural integration of the border area population with the rest of the country. Women and children in the remote border areas are provided services like craft training, maternity and child welfare, social education, medical aid, etc. | 42.00 |

**Increase in distant education centres**

3200. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an unprecedented rise in the number of distant education centres attached to various universities and professional Institutes in the country;